

Appl. No. 10/034,699
Amdt. Dated 04/06/2004
Reply to Office Action of 02/06/2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed 02/06/2004. In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-14 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Reconsideration in light of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 22 and 26 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Examiner objects to claims 4, 10, 11, and 15 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicates that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, Applicant believes that claim 28 has the same limitation as claim 4 for the subcombination and therefore should be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 4, 11, 15 and 28 to include all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims and any intervening dependent claims and cancelled claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 22 and 26. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 4, 11, 15 and 28 and all claims that depend therefrom be allowed.

Conclusion

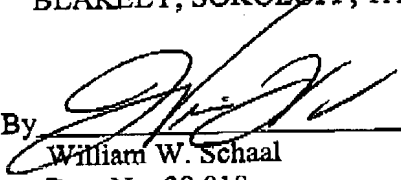
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 04/06/2004

By


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